

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

1-13. Canceled.

14. (New) An isolated nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56;
- (b) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60;
- (c) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 62;
- (d) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 64;
- (e) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 76;
- and
- (f) a nucleic acid comprising an antisense nucleotide sequence corresponding to a nucleotide sequence of (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e);

15. (New) An isolated nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 57;
- (b) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61;

- (c) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63;
  - (d) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 65;
  - (e) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 77; and
  - (f) a nucleic acid comprising an antisense nucleotide sequence corresponding to a nucleotide sequence of (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e).
16. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14.
17. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 16.
18. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 15.
19. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 18.
20. (New) A substantially pure human cytomegalovirus chemokine like protein (HCK) comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) SEQ ID NO: 57;
  - (b) SEQ ID NO: 61;

- (c) SEQ ID NO: 63;
  - (d) SEQ ID NO: 65; and
  - (e) SEQ ID NO: 77.
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- 21. (New) A cell line that expresses or secretes the protein of claim 20.
  - 22. (New) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to the protein of claim 20.
  - 23. (New) A vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid fragment from an HCMV, wherein the genetic region UL131-128 of the HCMV comprises a mutation that causes an inability to produce a functional HCK.
  - 24. (New) The vector of claim 23, wherein the mutation comprises a deletion of the genetic region UL131-128.
  - 25. (New) The vector of claim 23, wherein the mutation comprises a deletion of at least one gene selected from the group consisting of the UL131 gene, the UL130 gene, and the UL128 gene.
  - 26. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 23.

27. (New) A method of inhibiting activity of an HCMV, the method comprising interfering with the virus' ability to produce a functional HCK.
28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the interfering comprises manipulating the genome of the virus to comprise a mutation in its genetic region UL131-128.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the mutation comprises a deletion of the genetic region UL131-128.
30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the mutation comprises a deletion of at least one gene selected from the group consisting of the UL131 gene, the UL 130 gene, and the UL 128 gene.
31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the interfering comprises inhibiting transcription.
32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the interfering comprises inhibiting translation.
33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the HCK comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of HCK-1, HCK-2, HCK-3, HCK-4, and HCK-5.

34. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the activity comprises an ability to infect, disseminate, or spread in a human body.
35. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the activity comprises tropism for monocytes, leukocytes, or endothelial cells.
36. (New) A therapeutic agent comprising a small molecule, an siRNA, or an antisense nucleic acid that inhibits the expression of an HCK in a HCMV.
37. (New) A method of treating or preventing in a subject a virus induced disease, an autoimmune disease, a cancer, atherosclerosis, vasculitis, or a rheumatoid disease, the method comprising administering to the subject the therapeutic agent of claim 36.